DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to the amendment filed on 01/11/2010.

2.   The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter to claims 1-8 is withdrawn in view of applicant's remarks/arguments.

3.   The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hertling (US 2002/0188935) in view of Ruf (U.S. 6,665,865) to claims 1-24 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment and Examiner's Amendment below.

4.   Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11-17, 20 and 22 have been amended.

5.   Claims 4, 12 and 20 have been canceled (see Examiner's Amendment below).

6.   Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended (see Examiner's Amendment below).

7.   Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-24 are pending.

8.   Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-24 are allowed, renumbered 1-21.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

9.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Felipe Hernandez (Reg. No. 61,971) on 3/23/10.

        The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 12 and 20; and

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 17 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended),

In line 10, before "." insert , wherein when the age of the equivalence class is not less

than the age threshold:

    not cloning the equivalence class;

    merging the equivalence class with a second equivalence class; and

    referencing the merged equivalence classes using a memory reference

4.   (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended),

In line 12, before "." insert , wherein when the age of the equivalence class is not less

than the age threshold, the processor is further to:

    not clone the equivalence class;

    merge the equivalence class with a second equivalence class; and

    reference the merged equivalence classes using a memory reference

12.   (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended),

In line 1, before "machine" insert non-transitory

In line 9, before "." insert , wherein when the age of the equivalence class is not less than

the age threshold:

   not clone the equivalence class;

   merge the equivalence class with a second equivalence class; and

   reference the merged equivalence classes using a memory reference

20.   (Canceled)

- END -

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

10.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the

other claimed limitations, wherein when the age of the equivalence class is not less than the age

threshold: not cloning the equivalence class; merging the equivalence class with a second

equivalence class; and referencing the merged equivalence classes using a memory reference as

recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 17.

The closest cited prior arts, Hertling (US 2002/0188935) and Ruf (U.S. 6,665,865) teach

a method of determining an age of the equivalence class based on a generational age value.

However, Hertling (US 2002/0188935) and Ruf (U.S. 6,665,865) fail to teach wherein when the age of the equivalence class is not less than the age threshold: not cloning the equivalence class; merging the equivalence class with a second equivalence class; and referencing the merged equivalence classes using a memory reference as recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Qamrun Nahar whose telephone number is (571) 272-3730. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y Zhen, can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or processing is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Qamrun Nahar/
Qamrun Nahar
Art Unit 2191
/Wei Y Zhen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2191